

In re DAVID R. CHERITON, Application No. 09/981,170
Amendment A

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A switch comprising:

a memory configured to store connection information;

a server address translator configured to receive a plurality of requests from a client over a single connection, to reference the memory to determine a plurality of servers to service said received plurality of requests; and to redirect said received plurality of requests to said determined plurality of servers; wherein the server address translator is configured to indicate a splice token request to a current server of said determined plurality of servers in response to a redirection of said requests from the client to a server different from the current server of said determined plurality of servers; and

a client address translator configured to receive a plurality of responses, including a plurality of splice token responses to said splice token requests, from said determined plurality of servers; to organize said received plurality of responses into a stream of packets; and to forward said stream of packets over the connection to the client; wherein the client address translator is configured update the memory in response to said splice token response in order to identify whether or not to switch to a different server than a current server of said determined servers for said responses.

Claims 2-3 (canceled)

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Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 3, further~~ A method comprising:
receiving a plurality of requests from a client over a single Transmission Control

Protocol (TCP) connection;

redirecting the plurality of requests to a plurality of servers;

receiving a plurality of responses from the plurality of servers;

organizing the plurality of the responses into a stream of packets;

sending the stream of packets to the client over the single connection;

sending a plurality of ~~splice~~ splice indications to the plurality of servers; and

receiving a plurality of ~~splice~~ splice indication responses from the plurality of servers;

and

wherein said organizing the plurality of the responses includes referencing the plurality
of ~~splice~~ splice indication responses.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 4, further comprising updating the
memory or a second memory in response to receiving the plurality of ~~splice~~ splice indication
responses.

Claims 6-8 (canceled)

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Claim 9 (currently amended): A method comprising:
receiving a first request over a connection from a client;
redirecting the first request to a first server;
receiving a first response to the first request from the first server;
forwarding the first response over the connection to the client;
receiving a second request over the connection from the client after said redirecting the first request to the first server; before said forwarding the first response;
in response to identifying that the second request should be sent to a second server different from the first server, sending a first splice token to the first server to indicate the redirection of requests from the client;
redirecting the second request to a the second server;
receiving a second response to the second request from the second server; and
forwarding the second response over the connection to the client.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 9, further comprising: ~~sending a first splicer token to the first server after redirecting the first request to the first server; and~~
comprising receiving a first ~~splicer~~ splice token response from the first server.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method of claim 10, further comprising updating a memory for storing splicer data ~~after~~ in response to said receiving the first ~~splicer~~ splice token response in order to identify whether or not to switch to the second server for the second response.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein the splicer data indicates an address of the client.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein the splicer data indicates a sequence number for a set of packets received from the client.

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Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 9, further comprising selecting the first server from a set of server identifiers maintained in a memory configured to store connection information.

Claim 15 (canceled)

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Claim 16 (currently amended): A method comprising:

- establishing a set of connections to a plurality of servers;
- maintaining an indication of the set of connections;
- receiving a first request over a Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) connection from a client;
- referencing the indication to determine a first one of the plurality of servers;
- redirecting the first request to the first one of the plurality of servers;
- receiving a first response to the first request from the first one of the plurality of servers;
- receiving a second request over the connection from the client after said redirecting the first request to the first one of the plurality of servers; ~~before said receiving the first response;~~
- referencing the indication to determine a second one of the plurality of servers;
- sending a splice token request to the first one of the plurality of servers after redirecting the first request to the first one of the plurality of servers, and in response to said determination of the second one of the plurality of servers;
- redirecting the second request to the second one of the plurality of servers;
- in response to receiving a splice token response based on the splice token request from the first one of the plurality of servers, updating the indication in response to receiving the splice token response to identify to receive responses from the second one of the plurality of servers;
- receiving a second response to the second request from the second one of the plurality of servers; and
- organizing the first and second responses into a stream of packets.

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Claims 17-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): ~~The apparatus of claim 19, further~~ An apparatus
comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of requests from a client over a single connection;

means for redirecting the plurality of requests to a plurality of servers;

means for receiving a plurality of responses from the plurality of servers;

means for organizing the plurality of the responses into a stream of packets;

means for sending the stream of packets to the client over the single connection;

means for sending a plurality of ~~splice~~ splice indications to the plurality of servers;

and

means for receiving a plurality of ~~splice~~ splice token responses from the plurality of
servers; and

wherein said means for organizing the plurality of the responses includes means for
referencing the plurality of ~~splice~~ splice token responses.

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (new): The switch of claim 1, wherein said each of said splice token
responses is sent in a packet separate from said response(s) received from the current server
which said splice token response corresponds.

Claim 23 (new): The method of claim 4, wherein said each of said splice token
responses is received in a packet separate from said response(s) received from the server of
said plurality of servers which said splice token response corresponds.

Claim 24 (new): The method of claim 9, wherein the second request is received prior
to receiving and forwarding the first response to the client.

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Claim 25 (new): One or more computer-readable media containing computer-executable instructions for performing operations comprising:

- receiving a first request over a connection from a client;
- redirecting the first request to a first server;
- receiving a first response to the first request from the first server;
- forwarding the first response over the connection to the client;
- receiving a second request over the connection from the client after said redirecting the first request to the first server;
- in response to identifying that the second request should be sent to a second server different from the first server, sending a first splice token to the first server to indicate the redirection of requests from the client;
- redirecting the second request to the second server;
- receiving a second response to the second request from the second server; and
- forwarding the second response over the connection to the client.

Claim 26 (new): The computer-readable media of claim 25, wherein said operations further comprise receiving a first splice token response from the first server.

Claim 27 (new): The computer-readable media of claim 26, wherein said operations further comprise updating a memory for storing splicer data in response to said receiving the first splice token response in order to identify whether or not to switch to the second server for the second response.

Claim 28 (new): The computer-readable media of claim 27, wherein the splicer data indicates an address of the client.

Claim 29 (new): The computer-readable media of claim 27, wherein the splicer data indicates a sequence number for a set of packets received from the client.

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Claim 30 (new): The computer-readable media of claim 25, wherein said operations further comprise selecting the first server from a set of server identifiers maintained in a memory configured to store connection information.

Claim 31 (new): The computer-readable media of claim 25, wherein the second request is received prior to receiving and forwarding the first response to the client.